

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12 /075 W
-----060954 101606Z /47

O R 101532Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8393
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08604

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, MILI
SUBJECT: SOVIET CONSUL'S REMARKS ON KBW POSTERS

REFS: (A) USBER 1080 AND PREVIOUS
(B) USBER 943

1. TO EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCES WE SEE BETWEEN
KOZOBRODOV'S STATEMENTS TO THE SENAT LAST DECEMBER AND
HIS RECENT COMMENT TO A MISSION OFFICER, WE OFFER
THE FOLLOWING:

A) THE STATEMENT LAST YEAR WAS THE FIRST (THAT WE
ARE AWARE OF) OF WHAT HAS BECOME A SERIES OF SOVIET
CONGEN STATEMENTS ON POLITICAL MATTERS.

B) LAST YEAR'S STATEMENT WAS A "DEMAND," WITH NO
SUGGESTION THAT THE SOVIET PATROLS WOULD BECOME INVOLVED.

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C) BY ITS TERMS, KOZOBRODOV'S MOST RECENT STATEMENT
WAS NOT A DEMAND BUT A THREAT WHICH, SEEN IN THE LIGHT
OF THE RECENT SOVIET ACTION TO REMOVE POSTERS, IS NOT
WITHOUT SOME FOUNDATION.

2. THE MAIN REASON THIS PARTICULAR STATEMENT HAS
CAUSED THE REACTION IT DID AMONG THE ALLIED BONN GROUP

REPS IS THAT THE ALLIES HAD JUST DELIVERED A PROTEST TO THE SOVIETS ABOUT THE FLAG-TOUR REMOVAL OF THE POSTERS AND KHOTULEV OFFERED A "HALF APOLOGY." (REF B) KHOTULEV SOUGHT TO LAY THE BLAME ON THE SOLDIERS INVOLVED WHO, HE SAID, ACTED "A LITTLE IMPRUDENTLY." HOWEVER, IN SPITE OF THIS STATEMENT BY KHOTULEV, A RESPONSIBLE SOVIET OFFICIAL, NOT A SOLDIER, MADE A THREAT TO "CLEAN THE WALLS." WE FIND THIS STATEMENT UNACCEPTABLE AND BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS SHOULD BE TOLD SO IN STRONGER TERMS THAN WAS DONE AT THE TIME THE STATEMENT WAS MADE.

3. OUR PURPOSE IN SUGGESTING THAT THE SOVIETS BE REMINDED AGAIN ABOUT THE PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES WAS AN ATTEMPT TO FIND A CLEAR BASIS FOR SUCH A DEMARCHE. IN OUR VIEW, KOZOBRODOV'S STATEMENT WAS AS MUCH A VIOLATION OF THE QA AS THE OBJECTIONABLE COMMENTS BY CONSUL GENERAL BYKOV CITED IN PARA TWO OF REF (A). AGREED MINUTE II PROHIBITS "POLITICAL FUNCTIONS OR ANY MATTERS RELATED TO QUADRIpartite RIGHTS OR RESPONSIBILITIES"; KOZOBRODOV WAS DEALING BOTH WITH PUBLIC ORDER AND WITH FLAG TOURS, BOTH OF WHICH COME WITHIN THE AREA OF QUADRIpartite RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

4. WE REALIZE THAT POLITICAL SUBJECTS WILL INEVITABLY ARISE IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN ALLIED OFFICIALS
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AND MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET CONGEN, AND ON FURTHER REFLECTION WE WOULD AGREE THAT IT COULD SEEM AWKWARD TO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 08604

BASE A COMPLAINT ON DISCUSSING MATTERS PROHIBITED
UNDER AGREED MINUTE II. NEVERTHELESS, AGAINST THE
BACKGROUND OF THE REMOVAL OF POSTERS BY A SOVIET PATROL
AND THE ALLIED PROTEST, WE CONTINUE TO CONSIDER THAT
KOZOBRODOV'S SUPERIORS SHOULD BE TOLD THAT HIS HINT
THAT SOVIET PATROLS MIGHT ENGAGE IN MORE ACTION OF THIS
SORT IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT FURTHER SUCH
STATEMENTS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

5. WE THUS RECOMMEND THAT USBER BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE
A DEMARCHE TO CONSUL GENERAL BYKOV CONCERNING
KOZOBRODOV'S STATEMENT, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO AGREED
MINUTE II. IDEALLY, SUCH A DEMARCHE MIGHT BE MADE ON
BEHALF OF ALL THREE ALLIES, BUT WE WOULD NOT WISH TO
TAKE UP THE MATTER IN BONN AGAIN BECAUSE BONN GROUP
PREOCCUPATION WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE QUADRIPARTITE
DINNER MAKES IT LIKELY THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE DELAYED
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FOR SOME WEEKS. OUR RECOMMENDATION, THEREFORE, IS THAT
USBER BE AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK UNILATERALLY UNLESS THE
BRITISH AND FRENCH MISSIONS IN BERLIN CAN AGREE, WITHOUT
FURTHER REFERENCE TO EMBASSIES OR CAPITALS, FOR THE
US AS CHAIRMAN TO MAKE A DEMARCHE ON BEHALF OF ALL THREE
ALLIES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE.
STOESSEL

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